

The passages below are followed by questions based on their content; questions following a pair of related passages may also be based on the relationship between the paired passages. Answer the questions on the basis of what is stated or implied in the passage and in any introductory material that may be provided.

Questions 7-19 are based on the following passages.

The two passages below discuss the causes of deviant behavior and strategies for deterring it. The first passage is taken from a discussion of the classical perspective on deviance, while Passage 2 recounts a more recent interpretation of behavior.

Passage 1

Early attempts to understand what caused deviant behavior in society always centered on supernatural causes. People were criminals, it was assumed, because of some otherworldly influence, a demonic presence that tempted and manipulated otherwise good individuals into performing antisocial actions. But the arrival of the Enlightenment in Europe marked the end of this so-called demonic perspective and ushered in a new conception of the roots of deviant behavior, a viewpoint that came to be called the classical perspective.

The Enlightenment brought numerous changes to European culture. Foremost among them was an increased reliance on human rationality. Philosophers moved away from theologically centered debates and focused on such intellectual exercises as empiricism and the limits of human reason. Thus, it is no coincidence that the classical perspective on deviance describes criminal behavior not as the result of some supernatural entity but as the fruit of human rationality. Classicists maintain that a person chooses deviant behavior based on an intellectual “risk/reward” evaluation. The classicists start from the assumption that each individual wishes to maximize pleasure and minimize pain. Deviance occurs when an individual decides that the reward to be gained from an action outweighs the potential risk associated with the behavior. Thus, a person who decides to rob a bank has determined that the potential profits from the heist are worth the risk of incarceration.

Not surprisingly, adherents of the classical perspective advocate punishment as the best deterrent to deviant behavior. In order to prevent individuals from engaging in criminal activities, the risk associated with each activity must outstrip the reward. One classicist, Cesare Beccaria, even went so far as to maintain that a precise, mathematical system could be devised that would calculate the exact type of punishment necessary. However, arbitrary, excessive, or tyrannical punishments are not encouraged by the classical perspective. Because each deviant act arises from a rational calculation of pleasure versus pain, the appropriate punishment must merely exceed the expected pleasure in order to serve as a deterrent.

Passage 2

Just as people are able to influence and change society, society affects the behavior of its charges. It would be remiss to ascribe the emergence of deviant behavior solely to the perpetrator of that behavior. No individual exists in a vacuum; in order to understand the actions of an individual one must examine the society that produces the individual. Only by gaining an understanding of the relationship between individual and society can we begin to understand the causes of social deviance.

One way to begin to understand the existence of deviance is to imagine a “perfect” society. In this perfect society, each member shares common values and internalizes the norms of the group. In such a setting, each person is at peace because his or her relationship to the society at large is in harmony. Furthermore, since each individual’s goals and values are shared by the rest of the community, each participant in this perfect society feels actualized and secure, content that the needs of the individual are also the needs of the whole. Surely, deviant behavior would have no role in this utopia. The entire society would be coordinated by the predominance of shared mores, and each member’s behavior would be bound by these common values. Unfortunately, perfect societies do not exist in the real world.

Consider now a realistic model of society. Change is constant; immigration brings new members to the society, urbanization uproots families, and technological advances offer new and different ways of living. Harmony and organization are not the norm. Instead, disorganization reigns supreme. With society in a state of flux, it is impossible for individuals to remain in harmony with the community, and it is this discord that breeds social deviance. Lacking the coordination of an overarching social consensus, individuals replace it with dissention. While in time particular changes in society might bring about new social norms, and thus new models of consensus, new changes will inevitably occur, giving rise to a new cycle of deviant behavior.

It follows, then, that in order to control deviant behavior, one must first look to stabilize the society that engenders it. When disorganization is replaced with organization and disparate values are supplanted by shared norms, deviant behavior will be eliminated.

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE



7. The arrival of the Enlightenment in Europe shifted philosophers' focus from
- (A) superstition to spirituality
 - (B) demons to angels
 - (C) criminals to law-abiding citizens
 - (D) classicists to modernists
 - (E) theology to intellectualism
8. According to the classical perspective, deviant behavior is the result of
- (A) a criminal act
 - (B) a demonic presence
 - (C) a rational decision based on intellectual evaluation
 - (D) a concept developed by philosophers
 - (E) rationale that minimizes pleasure and maximizes pain
9. Classicists did not encourage harsh, despotic punishments because
- (A) risks must outstrip potential profits from a heist
 - (B) punishment can be meted out precisely and mathematically
 - (C) the demonic, otherworldly influence on actions will prevail
 - (D) the appropriate punishment must merely exceed the pain
 - (E) deviant acts arise from a reasoned assessment of pleasure versus pain
10. In line 45 of Passage 2, "ascribe" most nearly means
- (A) reveal
 - (B) attribute
 - (C) describe
 - (D) distinguish
 - (E) explain
11. In lines 46-47 of Passage 2 ("No individual exists in a vacuum") suggests that
- (A) society plays a key role in determining an individual's behavior
 - (B) an individual is accountable to those around him
 - (C) there is no relationship between individual behavior and society
 - (D) an individual can have a major impact on society
 - (E) without organized society, individuals would cease to exist
12. The author of Passage 2 uses the example of a "perfect" society to suggest that
- (A) common values are necessary for a successful society
 - (B) it is a reflection of today's world
 - (C) society is obsessed with perfection
 - (D) people will never be happy in an imperfect society
 - (E) deviant behavior would not exist in such a society
13. In line 83, "engenders" most nearly means
- (A) sexualizes
 - (B) publicizes
 - (C) enables
 - (D) advocates
 - (E) causes
14. In Passage 2, the author describes the realistic model of society in a tone that is
- (A) nostalgic for the calmer days of society
 - (B) objectively summarizing a realistic society
 - (C) critical of disorganization in society
 - (D) reproachful of companies that promote technological growth
 - (E) approving of individuals who dissent from society
15. When change is constant, which of the following is LEAST likely to result, according to the author of the second passage?
- (A) Immigration augments a society.
 - (B) Organization and harmony become the rule.
 - (C) Technological advancement spurs innovations.
 - (D) Disorganization reigns supreme.
 - (E) Social fluctuation is the norm.
16. Both passages support which generalization about deviant behavior?
- (A) Acts of deviance are ultimately the decision of the individual.
 - (B) Society is the main cause of deviant behavior.
 - (C) Deviant behavior can only be eliminated through severe punishment.
 - (D) Societal adjustments are the only way to eradicate deviance.
 - (E) The arrival of the Enlightenment in Europe promoted social deviance.

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE 

17. Which aspect of deviant behavior seems to matter a great deal in Passage 1, but not in Passage 2?

- (A) The influence of demons on criminals
- (B) The intellectual evaluation made by an individual
- (C) The methods for calculating punishment
- (D) The effects society has on the individual
- (E) The act of robbing a bank

18. The passages differ in tone in that Passage 1 is

- (A) enthusiastic while Passage 2 is cautious
- (B) indignant while Passage 2 is nostalgic
- (C) matter-of-fact while Passage 2 is sarcastic
- (D) objective while Passage 2 is critical
- (E) sensationalistic while Passage 2 is understated

19. Which statement best describes a significant difference between the two interpretations of how deviant behavior is propagated?

- (A) Passage 1 emphasizes the individual's role; Passage 2 emphasizes society's role.
- (B) Passage 1 explains the history of deviance; Passage 2 emphasizes the modern perspective.
- (C) Passage 1 discusses the demonic perspective; Passage 2 discusses the role of disorganization.
- (D) Each passage presents several reasons for deviant behavior.
- (E) Each passage discusses society's role in deviant behavior.

STOP

If you finish before time is called, you may check your work on this section only.
Do not turn to any other section in the test.